



House of Representatives

File No. 702

General Assembly

February Session, 2016

(Reprint of File No. 57)

House Bill No. 5072
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 22, 2016

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (1) "Private occupational school" means a person, board, association,
5 partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity
6 offering instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial,
7 commercial, service, professional or other occupation for any
8 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise of whatever nature,
9 including, but not limited to, a hospital-based occupational school, or
10 any program, school or entity offering postsecondary instruction in
11 barbering or hairdressing, except "private occupational school" shall
12 not include (A) instruction offered under public supervision and
13 control; (B) instruction conducted by a firm or organization solely for
14 the training of its own employees or members; or (C) instruction

15 offered by a school authorized by the General Assembly to confer
16 degrees;

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) As used in this section and
18 sections 3 to 5, inclusive, and section 7 of this act:

19 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
20 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes;

21 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
22 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

23 (3) "Student cohort" means a group of students who enroll at the
24 same period of time in the same certificate program.

25 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) The Board of Regents for Higher
26 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
27 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
28 earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by an institution
29 of higher education or private occupational school in the state for the
30 purpose of creating consistency among the various sub-baccalaureate
31 certificate programs. Not later than January 1, 2017, the president of
32 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance
33 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report
34 containing such written definition to the joint standing committee of
35 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
36 education.

37 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) Each institution of higher
38 education and private occupational school in the state shall submit
39 data for the prior academic year to the Office of Higher Education, in a
40 uniform format prescribed by said office, regarding its for-credit sub-
41 baccalaureate programs and the types of for-credit certificates it offers
42 not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and regarding
43 its noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of
44 noncredit certificates it offers not later than January 1, 2019, and
45 annually thereafter. Such data shall include, but need not be limited to,

- 46 the following for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program:
- 47 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;
- 48 (2) Total enrollment in such program;
- 49 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;
- 50 (4) Number and type of certificates awarded by such program;
- 51 (5) Tuition and fees charged for completion of such program in the
52 time period prescribed by such program;
- 53 (6) Estimated range of costs relating to the purchase of books and
54 supplies, unless such costs are included as part of the tuition and fees
55 of such institution or school for such program;
- 56 (7) Median loan debt incurred by students who complete such
57 program, to the extent such information has been reported to the
58 financial aid office of the institution of higher education or private
59 occupational school offering such program, separately by Title IV
60 loans and other education debt, including private and institutional
61 loans;
- 62 (8) Basic demographic information, to the extent available, of the
63 students enrolled in such program, including, but not limited to,
64 gender, age, race and ethnicity;
- 65 (9) Percentage of students in each student cohort who completed
66 such program in the time period prescribed by such program;
- 67 (10) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
68 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;
- 69 (11) Whether such program leads to a credential recognized by the
70 industry for which such program prepares a student;
- 71 (12) Whether a student may combine the certificate awarded upon
72 successful completion of such program with any other certificate

73 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
74 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of
75 qualification for a particular trade or occupation;

76 (13) Average length of time to complete such program;

77 (14) Employment rates, to the extent available, for students who
78 have completed such program at six months after completion of such
79 program;

80 (15) Student cohort pass rate, to the extent available, for national
81 certification programs; and

82 (16) Student cohort licensure rate, to the extent available, for
83 positions requiring the certificate and state licensure.

84 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall collect for each sub-
85 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher
86 education or private occupational school in the state (1) the average
87 starting salary for entry-level positions requiring the certificate, and (2)
88 the average salary for jobs requiring the certificate, based on available
89 Labor Department statistics, for each for-credit program, not later than
90 January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and for each noncredit
91 program, not later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter.

92 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Office
93 of Higher Education shall compile the data submitted pursuant to
94 subsection (a) of this section and collected pursuant to subsection (b) of
95 this section for purposes of comparing the sub-baccalaureate certificate
96 programs offered by the institutions of higher education and private
97 occupational schools and determining (1) which programs are similar
98 to other programs, (2) student interest in each program and similar
99 programs, and (3) the necessity of offering each program. Not later
100 than July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, said office shall make such
101 data available on its Internet web site for the purpose of enabling a
102 student or prospective student to make an informed decision about
103 whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate certificate program and, if so,

104 which program is the best fit for such student.

105 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than July 1, 2019, and
106 annually thereafter, the Office of Higher Education shall develop and
107 post on its Internet web site a one-page fact sheet for each sub-
108 baccalaureate certificate program offered by each institution of higher
109 education and private occupational school in the state. Such fact sheet
110 shall contain data submitted and collected pursuant to section 4 of this
111 act, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books and
112 supplies, graduation and, to the extent available, job placement rates
113 and average student debt. Not later than seven days after the office
114 posts the fact sheet on its Internet web site, and annually thereafter,
115 each institution of higher education and private occupational school
116 shall make such fact sheet available to its current and prospective
117 students by means, including, but not limited to, posting such fact
118 sheet on its Internet web site.

119 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) The Board of Regents for
120 Higher Education, under the direction of its chief academic officer,
121 shall establish a working group comprised of deans of continuing
122 education programs, or their designees, at the regional community-
123 technical colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate
124 certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical
125 college for purposes of designing a uniform naming convention for
126 such programs. Not later than January 1, 2019, the working group shall
127 design the uniform naming convention to enable students to
128 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
129 varied requirements within the same field of study. Any programs that
130 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
131 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

132 (b) Not later than February 1, 2019, and periodically thereafter as
133 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
134 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named noncredit sub-
135 baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to
136 determine if any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such

137 program are reasonable.

138 (c) Not later than March 1, 2019, the president of the Board of
 139 Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the
 140 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
 141 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 142 relating to higher education regarding the uniform naming convention
 143 designed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the
 144 determination made from the tuition review required under subsection
 145 (b) of this section.

146 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than July 1, 2019, the
 147 Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
 148 review not less than a sample of student data from all for-credit and
 149 noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by the
 150 institutions of higher education and the private occupational schools.
 151 Said office shall not disclose any personally identifiable information of
 152 any student obtained as a result of performing the annual review.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10a-22a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the state as the information and data which is to be reported upon by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education is already available in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or through other internal sources.

House "A" struck the underlying bill, which did not have a fiscal impact, and replaced it with the fiscal impact identified above.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5072 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to define and monitor sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. The bill specifies that private occupational schools include hospital-based occupational schools or any program, school, or entity offering postsecondary instruction in barbering or hairdressing.

Specifically, the bill requires BOR, in collaboration with OHE, to (1) create written definitions for all sub-baccalaureate certificates earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by higher education institutions and private occupational schools and (2) report the completed definitions to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2017. The definitions aim to create consistency among the various certificate programs, according to the bill.

The bill also requires each in-state institution or school to annually submit data to OHE from the previous academic year about its for-credit and noncredit sub-baccalaureate programs and the types of certificates these programs offer. Data on for-credit sub-baccalaureate programs and certificates must be submitted by January 1, 2018 and annually thereafter, and data on non-credit programs and certificates must be submitted by January 1, 2019 and annually thereafter. OHE must develop a uniform format for data submissions, and the bill

prescribes a detailed list of data that institutions and schools must submit.

Annually, beginning January 1, 2020, OHE must compile the collected data in order to compare various types of sub-baccalaureate programs to determine similarities to other programs, student interest in each program and similar programs, and the necessity of each program. By July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, OHE must post the compiled data on its website so that students and prospective students can make informed decisions about enrollment in and choice of sub-baccalaureate certificate programs.

The bill also requires:

1. OHE to develop and post on its website one-page fact sheets for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by Connecticut institutions,
2. such institutions to post these fact sheets on their own websites,
3. BOR to establish a working group to review all noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical college (CTC), and
4. OHE to create an annual review program for data samples submitted by institutions and schools.

The act also makes several technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment "A" changes the bill by (1) broadening the definition of "private occupational school" and defining "student cohort"; (2) revising various deadlines for data collection and reporting requirements, program development, and working group assignments; (3) assigning data collection and posting duties to OHE; and (4) making various conforming and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 4 — CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION***Data Submitted by Institutions to OHE***

The bill requires institutions' and schools' data submissions to OHE about sub-baccalaureate certificate programs to include the following information:

1. the program's name and subject matter area;
2. total program enrollment;
3. any entry-level requirements for program enrollment;
4. the number and type of certificates the program awarded;
5. tuition and fees charged for completing the program within the prescribed timeframe;
6. the estimated range of costs for purchasing books and supplies, unless the program tuition or fees include such costs;
7. median loan debt students incur when completing the program, to the extent it has been reported to the institution's or school's financial aid office, reported separately by Title IV loans and other education debt, including private and institutional loans;
8. basic demographic information, to the extent available, on students enrolled in the program, including their gender, age, race, and ethnicity;
9. percentage of students in each student cohort (i.e., group of students enrolled at the same period of time in the same certificate program) who completed such program within the prescribed time period;
10. whether there is a clear pathway from successful program completion to enrollment in a related associate degree program;
11. whether the program leads to a credential recognized by the

- industry for which the program prepares a student;
12. whether a student may combine the certificate awarded upon successful program completion with any other certificate awarded upon successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate program in order to achieve a heightened qualification level for a particular trade or occupation;
 13. the average length of time for program completion;
 14. employment rates, to the extent available, for students who have completed the program, at six months after program completion;
 15. student cohort pass rate, to the extent available, for national certification programs; and
 16. student cohort licensure rate, to the extent available, for positions requiring the certificate and state licensure.

Data Collected by OHE

The bill requires OHE to collect the following data, based on available Labor Department statistics, for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by Connecticut higher education institutions or private occupational schools: the average (1) starting salary for entry-level positions requiring the certificate and (2) salary for jobs requiring the certificate. The office must collect such information about (1) for-credit programs by January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and (2) noncredit programs by January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter.

§ 7 — ANNUAL REVIEW PROGRAM

The bill requires OHE to develop, by July 1, 2019, an annual review program for student data samples from each for-credit and noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. It is unclear what sample size should be used. OHE must not disclose any personally

identifiable student information that it may obtain from this review.

§ 5 — PROGRAM FACT SHEETS

The bill requires OHE, by July 1, 2019 and annually thereafter, to develop and post on its website a one-page fact sheet for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by Connecticut higher education institutions and private occupational schools. The fact sheet must contain data that the bill requires such institutions and schools to submit to OHE (see above), along with tuition, fees, costs of books and supplies, graduation, and, to the extent available, job placement rates and average student debt.

Additionally, the bill requires such institutions and schools to make these fact sheets available to current or prospective students by posting them on their own websites within seven days of OHE's online posting, along with other methods of their choosing.

§ 6 — BOR WORKING GROUP

The bill also requires BOR, under the direction of its chief academic officer, to establish a working group of CTC continuing education deans, or their designees, to review all noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs that CTCs offer for the purpose of designing a uniform naming convention for such programs. By January 1, 2019, the working group must design a uniform naming convention for the programs to help students distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet varied requirements in the same field of study. The naming convention must uniformly designate varying programs by indicating different, enhanced, or more demanding requirements.

Additionally, the working group must review tuition for the uniformly named noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications. By February 1, 2019, and periodically thereafter at BOR's request, the review must determine whether tuition and fee cost variations between the programs are reasonable.

BOR's president must report to the Higher Education Committee by March 1, 2019 on the uniform naming convention and tuition review determination.

BACKGROUND

Higher Education Institution

A higher education institution is a person, school, board, association, limited liability company, or corporation licensed or accredited to offer one or more programs of higher learning leading to one or more degrees (CGS § 10a-34(a)(3)).

Private Occupational School

A private occupational school is a person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity offering instruction in any trade or industrial, commercial, service, professional, or other occupation for a remuneration, consideration, reward, or promise. It does not include (1) publicly supervised and controlled instruction, (2) employee or member training offered by a firm or organization, or (3) instruction from a school authorized by the legislature to confer degrees (CGS § 10a-22a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)